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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-01	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00
	LAB-01	L-00	M-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
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R 181845Z DEC 01 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4828
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004625

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 2001 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 198912

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1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO INSTRUCTIONS AND
QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL.

QUESTION A. SUMMARY OF POST-SEPTEMBER 11 COALITION SUPPORT
MATRIX, EXCLUDING INFORMATION ON TREATY SIGNING AND
RATIFICATION:

THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA (GOA) HAS EXPRESSED STRONG
SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM AND
REPUDIATED THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11. THE GOA HAS OFFERED
TO DEPLOY A MILITARY MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL UNIT TO
AFGHANISTAN UNDER UNITED NATIONS MANDATE, AS WELL AS OTHER
MILITARY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING A BATTALION

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OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES FOR DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN.

QUESTION B. WE HAVE NO CASE STUDIES TO REPORT.

QUESTION C. THERE WERE NO ACTS OF TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA DURING THE YEAR 2001. HOWEVER, THE ORAL TRIAL FOR ALLEGED ARGENTINE ACCOMPLICES TO THE 1994 TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTER (AMIA) BEGAN IN LATE SEPTEMBER. TWENTY SUSPECTS ARE BEING TRIED, 15 OF WHO ARE FORMER POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING A FORMER BUENOS AIRES POLICE CAPTAIN. THE SUSPECTS ARE ACCUSED OF SUPPLYING THE STOLEN VEHICLE THAT CARRIED THE CAR BOMB. THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO LAST THROUGH MUCH OF 2002.

THE AUTHORITIES CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND TO SEEK THOSE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1994 BOMBING OF THE AMIA.

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A TEAM OF FBI INVESTIGATORS VISITED ARGENTINA IN JUNE 2001 TO WORK JOINTLY WITH ARGENTINE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE AMIA BOMBING IN REVIEWING THE INVESTIGATION. DESPITE THE TIME THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THESE INCIDENTS AND THE MISSTEPS IN THE INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS, THERE IS SOME EXPECTATION THAT THE PUBLIC TRIAL OF ACCESSORIES TO THE AMIA BOMBING WILL BRING NEW INFORMATION TO LIGHT ON ONE OR BOTH OF THE TERRORIST BOMBINGS.

QUESTION D. IN AUGUST CHILE REFUSED ARGENTINE FEDERAL JUDGE MARIA SERVINI DE CUBRIA,S REQUEST EARLIER IN THE YEAR FOR THE EXTRADITION OF GENERAL AUGOSTO PINOCHET FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAR-BOMB THAT KILLED GENERAL CARLOS PRATS AND HIS WIFE IN BUENOS AIRES IN 1974. THERE WERE NO EXTRADITION REQUESTS TO ARGENTINA FROM THE U.S.

QUESTION E: DISCUSSION HAS GONE ON FOR MANY YEARS IN ARGENTINA ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO FACILITATE USE OF PAID INFORMANTS, PLEA BARGAINING, AND UNDERCOVER AGENTS. MOST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND MANY PROMINENT JUDGES FAVOR SUCH CHANGES. HOWEVER, PAST ABUSES OF POLICE POWER DURING THE MILITARY REGIMES CONTINUE TO COLOR THE OPINIONS OF MUCH OF THE POPULATION ON SUCH ISSUES. THE ABSENCE OF THESE JUDICIAL POWERS REFLECTS A HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY ON CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUES, BUT ALSO IMPEDES INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS.

HOWEVER, IN MARCH 2000, THE GOA PASSED CHANGES TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURES CODE, FACILITATING THE INVESTIGATION AND

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PROSECUTION IN TERRORISM CASES. IT INCLUDES THE ADDITIONS OF
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LIMITED PLEA-BARGAINING FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM SUBJECTS.
HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED
OR ISSUED.

QUESTION F: THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DEPLORES
TERRORIST ATTACKS WHENEVER THEY OCCUR AND FREQUENTLY MAKES
PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF ITS POSITION. THE GOA REGULARLY
PARTICIPATES IN THE ANNIVERSARIES OF THE BOMBINGS OF THE
ISRAELI EMBASSY AND THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, AND
FREQUENTLY MAKES POSITIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AGAINST
TERRORISM. A NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS PARTICIPATED IN THE
JEWISH COMMUNITY'S MARKING OF THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMIA BOMBING ON JULY 17, 2001. ON THE DECEMBER 11, 2001
THREE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, THE GOA
HELD A PUBLIC MEMORIAL CEREMONY THAT RECEIVED NATIONAL LIVE
TELEVISION COVERAGE AND SUBSTANTIAL PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE.
THE PRESIDENT AND ENTIRE CABINET PARTICIPATED.

QUESTION G. IN EARLY 2000, THE GOA ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF
A SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE TO SERVE AS A
MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING OF
THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN 1992 AND THE AMIA BOMBING IN 1994.
THE ACTIVITY OF THIS TASK FORCE HAS RECEIVED MIXED REVIEWS.
THE MOST POSITIVE IMPACT HAS BEEN IMPROVED COMMUNICATION
AMONG THE INVOLVED AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF
INTERIOR, FEDERAL POLICE, AND THE INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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IN DECEMBER 2000, THE GOA ANNOUNCED AN INITIATIVE TO CREATE
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AN INTELLIGENCE UNIT WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
SPECIFICALLY GEARED TOWARDS ANALYZING TERRORIST THREATS.
REPORTEDLY, IT WILL FUNCTION IN THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE UNIT
WORKING WITH MILITARY AND CIVIL ANALYSTS THAT WILL
SPECIFICALLY MONITOR CONDITIONS FOR NEW THREATS IN THE AREA
OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

THE GOA STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS WITH ITS REGIONAL PARTNERS IN
STRENGTHENING SECURITY AND SEARCHING FOR TERRORIST SUPPORT
NETWORKS IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND
PARAGUAY AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS. SECURITY OFFICIALS
FROM ALL THREE COUNTRIES, AND THOSE OF URUGUAY, ARE
COORDINATING AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE ON THE SHARING OF
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. THE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE ALSO TRYING
TO IMPROVE VERY LIMITED JOINT OPERATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
TERRORISM.

IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS THE GOA ALSO PLAYED A
KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING A HEMISPHERIC CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF
U.S. POSITIONS ON COUNTERTERRORISM. ADDITIONALLY, THE GOA
WORKED WITH THE U.S. AND ALLIES IN MULTI-LATERAL FORA ON
TERRORISM ISSUES.

QUESTION H. THE GOA DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS.

QUESTION I. THE GOA HAS NOT MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN
SUPPORT OF A TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM
ISSUE.

QUESTION J. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE GOA,S ATTITUDE
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TOWARDS TERRORISM IN THE YEAR 2001. THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS
HAVE HELPED TO MAKE TERRORISM AN EVEN HIGHER GOVERNMENTAL
PRIORITY. THE FUNDAMENTAL GOVERNMENT POLICY REMAINS ONE OF
STRONG SUPPORT FOR ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES, AND THE GOA IS
FULLY COOPERATIVE IN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS.

QUESTION K. THE USG CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ARGENTINA
ON ITS ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOA, A
TEAM OF FBI INVESTIGATORS VISITED ARGENTINA IN JUNE 2001 TO
WORK JOINTLY WITH ARGENTINE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES
INVOLVED IN THE AMIA BOMBING IN REVIEWING THE INVESTIGATION.
IN 2001, THE USG ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS PROVIDED
INFORMATION TO THE GOA IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS RELATED TO
TERRORIST ACTIVITY. THE USG CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH
THE GOA IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA.

QUESTION L. THE GOA AND ALL ARGENTINE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
HAVE COOPERATED FULLY IN THE INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL
TERRORIST ASSETS HELD IN ARGENTINA. THOUGH NO LEADS HAVE
BEEN FOUND, THE GOA HAS CONTINUALLY EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS
TO FREEZE ASSETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USG,S REQUESTS.

QUESTION M. IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11, THE MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES AGREED TO CLOSE THE
PUBLIC STREETS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE CHANCERY TO
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOA SIGNIFICANTLY
INCREASED THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL POLICE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT
THE EMBASSY. BOTH COOPERATIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES WERE TAKEN
IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. GOA LAW
ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RESPONSIVE TO
EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION ON SECURITY ISSUES.

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